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THE MCA

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HSA Committees OK MCA VRDP Grant

Following a favorable review by the Montana Health Systems Agency (HSA) Executive Committee, MCA's \$50,000 Volunteer Resource Development Project (VRDP) grant application was submitted to National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) on May 30.

The third year continuation grant application won a 12-0 vote of approval at a May 15 public review conducted by the HSA State-wide Program Review Committee and attended by about 35 MCA supporters. Final approval was granted by a narrow 7-6 vote at the May 29 HSA Executive Committee meeting.

HSA approval does not assure federal funding, but is one required step before the application may be considered for funding by NIAAA.

Also required prior to NIAAA consideration is an "A-95 Review" conducted by the "A-95 Clearinghouse" in the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP). A summary of the application was submitted to OBPP, which in turn distributed the summary to a variety of concerned agencies for review and comment. Remarks made by reviewing agencies are forwarded to NIAAA as they are received.

Notice of approval of the VRDP grant is anticipated in the third quarter of 1980.

Ft. Peck Declares War on Alcoholism and Drugs

The National Congress of American Indians, (NCAI) at an April 18 Executive Committee meeting in Spokane, Washington, has made a "declaration of war against Indian Alcoholism and drug abuse."

According to an article by Caleb Shields in the May issue of Wotaniin Wowapi, the monthly Fort Peck Tribal newspaper published in Poplar, an Assiniboine and Sioux tribal delegation consisting of Councilman Shields and Tribal Alcoholism Director Melvin Eagleman, presented recommendations on dealing with alcoholism and drug abuse and received an "exciting show of support from the NCAI."

The seven-page set of recommendations supported by NCAI covers government relations, treatment programs, legislative recommendations, community and social impact, laws and Indian representation.

Sheilds said of alcoholism: "It has long been identified as the number one Indian problem As you prepare to show your respect for your relatives on Memorial Day, remember the many who were placed there prematurely by the drastic effects of alcohol and drugs."

A reservation-wide "war council" and feast is being planned in Poplar in late May or early June to address the issue.

Southwestern Montana Alcohol Services Closes

Southwestern Montana Alcoholism Services, located at 801 N. Last Chance Gulch in Helena, discontinued all services as of May 30, a month earlier than planned, according to a release by Southwest's Western Team Leader, Lara Battles.

The decision to close Southwest, one of two alcoholism treatment centers in Helena and administrative headquarters for six satellite programs in Gallatin, Beaverhead, Madison, Broadwater and Jefferson counties, was made by the Southwest Governing Board in response to reduced local financial support last August. Battles said the closure would terminate five paid positions in the Western Team.

According to SWMAS Executive Director David W. Briggs, advance notice of the termination of Lewis and Clark County funding enabled the program to plan a smooth transition and assure continuity of service for clients. Briggs was confident that Boyd Andrew Service Center, 410 9th Ave. in Helena, could handle Southwest's Helena client load. As to whether comperable levels of service would continue to be available throughout the six-county satellite network, Briggs was less certain.

--continued on page 4

PLEASE RETURN

Volunteer Key -- "Get Involved!"

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--by Robert W. Oaks, Executive Director

Throughout the history of mankind, volunteers have played significant roles in shaping our destiny. No field of endeavor has been without significant contributions from volunteer groups. In the long run, it is those groups who have gotten the job done when other, sometimes more sophisticated means have failed.

Cures for diseases, scientific achievements, relief of pain and suffering, constitutional equality, and the winning of wars have all been accomplished through the voluntary efforts of caring, concerned citizens. The voice of volunteers is loud and clear, and their effectiveness is great indeed.

It is the intent of the Montana Council on Alcoholism to march in the same parade with the many great volunteer workers of the past. In fact, we intend one day to be the Grand Marshal.

There is no area where the efforts and force of volunteer groups is more needed today than in the fight against alcoholism. I won't bore you with all the depressing statistics - we've heard them too many times already. Suffice it to say that alcoholism and all that it breeds is The number one health problem in our country and in the great state of Montana.

The devastation of this horrible disease affects each and every one of us. As we state in our philosophy, alcoholism does have its price, and we all pay it. You need not have been personally touched by alcoholism to know its ruin and destruction. Our courts, welfare rolls, consumer price index, and our morgues contain many examples of the price of alcoholism. Guess who pays this price?

The time has come when we, the members of society who foot the bill, must unite and take a stand against the carnage, the cost, and the pain and suffering caused by alcohol abuse and alcoholism.

For many of us who have recovered from alcoholism, it goes even beyond that. But for all of us, recovered alcoholics and others, there is surely an obligation, if not a mandate, to do what we can to stem the tide.

Alarmingly, all indications are that the havoc of alcoholism continues to grow at an accelerated pace. In addition, it appears that financial support at both the federal and state levels is being significantly reduced. These factors place

Letters to the Editor

MCA Monitor welcomes letters and articles with the understanding that all submissions may be edited for length or form. Originals and photos cannot be returned.

the burden squarely upon our shoulders.

I have recently been fortunate enough to have been asked to speak on a number of radio and T.V. programs. Invariably, the first question asked is "What is the Montana Council on Alcoholism?" The answer is simple. YOU are the Montana Council on Alcoholism. MCA is composed of the people of this state who care enough about the problems caused by alcoholism to do something about it. MCA is the united voice of our growing constituency.

By definition, the word volunteerism implies action and involvement. It's high time we put that action and involvement to work. Each of our readers must answer the question "What can I do?" Financial support is desperately needed. Personal participation is needed even more. There are innumerable things that need to be done in all Montana communities. You hold the key to our success.

The name of the game is to "be involved."

Volunteers Needed at Helena Office

We need the help of several volunteers in the Helena area who can assist our staff with routine office tasks such as bulk mailings, filing, clipping articles, operating the copy machine, typing and publicity work. In addition to formal training events, volunteers will receive training in office skills, the alcoholism service delivery network, and during Montana's legislative session, the legislative process.

Even if you have only a few hours a week to help, it will make a big difference for the Council. Just call or drop by the office to let us know when you are available.

MCA MONITOR is published by Montana Council on Alcoholism, a non-profit corporation. A.J. Utick-Pres., C.J. Christian-V.P., H.H. Bristow-Sec., R.W. Oaks-Executive Director

Women's Recovery House Opens in Helena

Boyd Andrews Service Center Director Jo Kaste announced that a women's transitional living facility has been opened at 219 N. Rodney in Helena.

Kaste said potential residents at the facility should have completed treatment at an inpatient alcoholism program and be willing to comply fully with program expectations.

"At this time we do not accept children in the facility," Kaste said. "However, if a woman has dependent children and/or is on AFDC, we can check into foster care of other living arrangements for the dependents while she is in our facility. Two to three weeks notice will be needed to determine eligibility."

The Women's Facility has essentially the same treatment approach and goals as the male facility at 410 9th Ave., including: AA membership, vocational and job-seeking training and assistance, counseling on specific issues regarding women, development of improved coping skills, improved self-awareness and self image, and support system extension.

Based on income, residents are expected to pay toward room and board and keep hours according to house rules. New residents remain on probationary status for two weeks, and must agree to remain at the facility for a minimum period of ninety days.

For additional information on this new women's facility, contact Facility Supervisor Judy Calloway, at 443-1241 or 443-2343.

U.S. Congress Creates Alcohol Commission

In January of this year, Congress enacted PL 96-180 creating a National Commission on Alcoholism and other Alcohol-Related Problems. The Commission will conduct a two-year study of the full range of issues related to alcoholism and will report its findings and recommendations to the President and the Congress, after which time it will cease to exist.

The legislation creating the Commission stipulates that there will be twenty-one members: four from the U.S. Senate; four from the House; nine public members appointed by the President; and four non-voting members representing interested federal agencies, who will also be appointed by the President.



By helping to identify alcohol as a factor in automobile crashes, news media can motivate community action to control drunk driving, according to a U.S. Dept. of Transportation (DOT) publication entitled The Alcohol Crash Story: A News Media Guide.

The booklet was mailed to radio and T.V. stations nationwide and includes facts about alcohol as well as suggestions for programming, news and feature writing.

"By inquiring into the community's methods of arresting, adjudicating and rehabilitating drunk drivers, the press can help officials and the public improve the system for controlling drunk driving and for returning the problem drinker/driver to health and productivity," the booklet says.

According to DOT, alcohol is involved in about half of all fatal crashes nationwide, with many victims being drunk pedestrians. Teenagers are particularly at risk because they are inexperienced with both driving and drinking. DOT says that riding in an automobile is the greatest single hazard faced by young Americans, greater than from other drugs, disease, suicide . . . or even war.

The DOT booklet calls upon news media to help educate the public to recognize the drunk driving hazard. "Reporting the consequences of alcohol crashes in the media can help to emphasize the danger to the public and encourage preventive action."

The booklet encourages reporters to ask if alcohol was involved in a fatal crash and if a chemical test was taken during investigation. Other recommended questions are: what counter-measures are taken by government and the courts; what attitudes toward referral to treatment exist on the part of defense attorneys; what is the DWI conviction rate in local courts; and what prevention, education and treatment programs are available locally.

A free copy of the booklet may be requested from Mrs. Elanor Kitts, General Services Division, NAD-42, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, D.C. 20540

--continued from page 1

Briggs said the three southern county satellites located in Ennis, Dillon and Bozeman are planning to unite in a tri-county service program beginning July 1, after termination of the satellite network on June 30. He said Boyd Andrew Service Center was planning to provide services in Broadwater and Jefferson Counties after June 30.

Eastern Team Leader, Chuck Heath of Bozeman Problem Drinking Center, emphasized that although "nothing is positive," plans to maintain present service levels are contingent upon approval of a state grant to augment the county funding which has already been pledged to the tri-county program. Heath said that a non-profit corporation has been formed with a board consisting of two representatives from each of the county program boards. The new organization is awaiting official notification of available funding, expected from Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division by June 13.

Boyd Andrew Service Center Director, Jo Kaste, said that in addition to maintaining a full time counselor at Choteau in Teton County, Boyd's Center would maintain a full-time counselor in Jefferson County, with time split between Whitehall and Boulder, and a half-time counselor in Broadwater County at Townsend. Kaste said that resulting service levels would be equivalent to those maintained under the prior administration of Southwestern Montana Mental Health Center.

Kalispell Declares June S.O.B.E.R. Month

Following a Memorial Day kick-off, June has been declared S.O.B.E.R. Month in Kalispell,

according to Flathead Valley Chemical Dependency Services Director Ken Anderson.

Anderson said that the S.O.B.E.R. ("Slow On the Bottle, Enjoy the Road") drinking-driving awareness campaign initiated in Kalispell includes distribution of S.O.B.E.R. bumper stickers and posters, as well as extensive media activity with T.V. dubs, radio public service announcements, and a planned full-page article in the local newspaper.

The S.O.B.E.R. theme was added to a Spring Festival held at the Kalispell junior high school through a table stocked with free literature, and an orientation session with film showings that was attended by about 300 young people.

Anderson said intensive media activity would continue throughout the remainder of June.

Local MCA Monitor Distributors Needed

MCA needs your help to distribute additional copies of MCA Monitor to new readers each month.

There are many ways you can help. Pass your copy of the Monitor to a friend or co-worker when you are finished reading it, preferably with a brief introduction of the Council. Alternate issues will contain a membership application form. Encourage your friend to join the Council.

If you live or work near an office reception area or public building, ask permission to place a few copies each month. If you maintain a professional office, be sure there are several copies of the Monitor available.

Just call or write MCA to tell us how many extra copies you need each month.

Membership Application

MONTANA COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

616 Helena Ave. • Helena, Montana 59601 • (406) 442-5726

Individual

Student/Sr. Citizen	\$ 5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributing	25	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining	50	<input type="checkbox"/>

Agency/Organization/Firm

Supporting	\$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributing	50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining	100	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining Donor	300	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dues Are Tax Deductable

Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Nick-Name)

Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Occupation _____ With _____

Phone _____ / _____
(Home) (Business)

Affiliations _____

Are you interested in serving as a volunteer? Yes ☐ No ☐

Interests _____

Specific Concerns _____